

Rural District Council of Highworth


---

THE  
ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND HOUSING OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1953





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29428944>

Rural District Council of Highworth

---

THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND HOUSING OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR 1953

## CONTENTS

### REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

	Page
Introductory Letter ... ..	5
Staff ... ..	6
General Statistics ... ..	7
Extracts from Vital Statistics ... ..	8
Live Births ... ..	8
Still Births ... ..	8
Infant Mortality ... ..	8
Causes of Death ... ..	9
Death from Cancer ... ..	10
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases ... ..	11
Analysis under Age Groups ... ..	11
Distribution in Parishes ... ..	12
Infectious Diseases ... ..	13
Tuberculosis ... ..	13
Tuberculosis ... ..	14
National Assistance Act, 1948 ... ..	15
General Provision of the Health Services for the District ... ..	15
Diphtheria Immunisation ... ..	16
Vaccination ... ..	16

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER

Introductory Letter ... ..	17
<b>SECTION ONE</b>	
Number and Nature of Inspections carried out during 1953	18
Water Supply Generally ... ..	20
Results of Bacteriological & Chemical Analyses of Water Supplies ... ..	21
Water Sampling ... ..	28
Public Health Act 1936, Section 138, as amended by Water Act 1945, Section 30 ... ..	29
Table showing Number of Houses in each Parish supplied with Mains Water ... ..	30
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal ... ..	31
Drainage Works. Table ... ..	33
Public Health Act 1936, Section 269. Moveable Dwellings	33
Factories Act 1937 ... ..	34
List of Factories in the District ... ..	35
Outworkers ... ..	36
National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50 ... ..	36
Infectious Disease Investigations ... ..	36
Inspection of Schools ... ..	37
Petroleum Consolidation Acts 1928 and 1936 ... ..	37

Shops Act 1950	...	...	...	...	37
Public Health Amendment Act 1907. Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers	...	...	...	...	38
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	...	...	...	...	38
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	38
Control of Vermin	...	...	...	...	38
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	39
Salvage Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	40

## SECTION TWO

Inspection and Supervision of Food	...	...	...	...	41
Registration of Premises under Food and Drugs Act 1938, Section 14	...	...	...	...	41
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	41
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	41
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	42
Cafés	...	...	...	...	42
Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	42
Works Canteens, Hostels and School Meals Cooking Dept.	...	...	...	...	42
St. Margaret's Bacon Factory, Stratton St. Margaret	...	...	...	...	42
Method of Disposal of Condemned Foods	...	...	...	...	43
Carcases Inspected and Condemned. Table	...	...	...	...	44
Unsound Food at the Bacon Factory	...	...	...	...	44
Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, Section 3	...	...	...	...	45
Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard Licences	...	...	...	...	45
Table. Details of Food Premises in the District	...	...	...	...	46
Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949	...	...	...	...	47
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	47
Ice-cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	48

## SECTION THREE

Housing Act 1936	...	...	...	...	49
Housing Statistics for 1953	...	...	...	...	49
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	50
Council Owned Property	...	...	...	...	51
Housing Progress	...	...	...	...	52
Table. Types of Post-war Houses built	...	...	...	...	53
Number and Type of Post-war Houses erected in each Parish	...	...	...	...	54
Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	55
Table. Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	56

# Highworth Rural District Council

1953—54

*Chairman of the Council:*

EDWARD ALFRED MERRICKS, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

ALBERT CECIL WITCOMBE

*Clerk to the Council:*

WILFRED S. G. MILLS

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

All the Members of the Council

*Chairman* — Mrs. ELSIE T. CONSTABLE

*Vice-Chairman:* NELSON N. SMITH

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE:

All the Members of the Council

*Chairman* — NORMAN L. WHATLEY

*Vice-Chairman:* EDMUND F. BOULTON, J.P.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT OF HIGHWORTH.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1953 on the state of the public health of the District together with the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

On the whole, apart from an outbreak of Measles, the District remained free from serious epidemics and the general high standard of health was maintained. The increased incidence of Measles was in keeping with the general rise throughout the country to what has now become a biennial occurrence. Once again it is gratifying that no case of Diphtheria was recorded. Seven cases of Polio-myelitis, five paralytic and two non-paralytic were notified, and were part of the general rise throughout England and Wales.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer speaks for itself and summarizes a large and increasing volume of work efficiently performed. As heretofore, the good progress of the Council's Housing Scheme is very satisfactory and goes a long way towards providing badly needed accommodation for present and intending residents.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the whole-hearted co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from the other departments of your Council throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. McELROY,

  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

February, 1954.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT

31st December, 1953.

### *Medical Officer of Health*

R. S. McELROY, B.A., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. (also Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council, Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council).

### *Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer*

A. G. UNDERWOOD, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT., CERT. NAT. INST. BUILDERS.

### *Additional Sanitary Inspectors*

F. R. G. SELWOOD, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT., A.R.S.I.

H. S. CARTWRIGHT, CERT. S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT., A.R.S.I.

### *Assistant Housing Officer*

L. ROWLAND, A.R.I.P.H.H.

### *Unqualified Assistant to Sanitary Inspector, and Rodent Operator*

D. F. WALKER.

### *Clerical Staff*

Miss S. E. NEWMAN—Shorthand Typist.

Miss E. M. POCOCK—Shorthand Typist. (Services shared with Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council and Wiltshire County Council).

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
19 BATH ROAD,  
SWINDON, WILTS.

Telephone Nos.: Swindon 4847/8/9.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	48,491
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	14
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...			21,900
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	5,980
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£112,104
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£443
Number of Houses erected in 1953	...	...	...	222
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	31
By Local Authority	...	...	...	191
Number of Domestic dwellings connected to main water supply in H.R.D.C. Water Undertaking Area in 1953				243
Number of Domestic dwellings connected to main water supply in Swindon Borough Water Undertaking taking Area in 1953	...	...	...	37

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births:

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	187	185	372
Illegitimate	...	...	...	13	13	26
Total number of live births ...				200	198	398

Live birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)	...	19.26
Live birth rate for England and Wales	...	15.5
Comparability factor for the District	...	1.06

### Still Births.

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of Still Births ...				5	4	9

### Deaths

Deaths from all causes in the area ...	...	195
Death rate per 1000 population (corrected) ...	...	9.34
Death rate for England and Wales ...	...	11.4
Comparability factor for England and Wales	...	1.05

### Infant Mortality.

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Deaths				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...				3	2	5

#### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Deaths				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...				2	1	3

### Infant Death Rate.

(Number of infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births)	...	...	...	12.56
Infant death rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	26.8

**Birth Rate:** At 19.26 the rate shows an increase of 2.61 per 1,000 population over the 1952 figure and compares favourably with that of 15.5 for England and Wales.

**Death Rate:** This was 9.34 and slightly lower than the previous year and also lower than the comparative figure of 11.4 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** The figure of 12.56 shows a marked decline compared with that of 19.77 for the previous year and much lower than the figure of 26.8 for England and Wales.

**Causes of Death:**

				Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	3	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	8	10
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	13	11
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	10	4
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	2	—
Other heart disease	...	...	...	25	27
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	5
Influenza	...	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...	...	...	...	3	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	5	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	7	10
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	2	—
Total, all causes				106	89

## DEATHS FROM CANCER DURING 1953.

Age	Site				Total
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	
40-50 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—
51-60 yrs.	—	—	—	2	2
61-70 yrs.	—	1	1	7	9
71-80 yrs.	—	—	—	8	8
81-90 yrs.	—	—	—	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	—	1	1	18	20

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1953 as compared with 1951 and 1952.

Disease				1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	30	17	12
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	67	122	55
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	375	14	562
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21	7	26
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	3	3
Dysentery	...	...	...	25	39	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	6	10
Small pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	3	4
Chickenpox	...	...	...	—	—	1
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	1	7
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	3	8	—
Undulant Fever	...	...	...	—	1	—
Encephalitis (Infect.)	...	...	...	—	—	1
TOTAL				528	222	694

### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

The distribution of cases in age groups and Parishes is shown in the following two tables:—

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65	Unknown Age	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	12
Whooping Cough	5	29	15	—	5	1	—	—	55
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	8	232	291	12	4	1	—	14	562
Pneumonia	5	3	—	3	6	3	3	3	26
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	4	2	1	3	1	—	—	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	—	10
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	—	7
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Infect.)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	18	273	320	24	31	7	4	17	694

# DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Disease	Highworth	Stratton	Chiseldon	Haydon Wick	South Marston	Wroughton	Liddington	Bishopstone	Blunsdon	Castle Eaton	Hannington	Inglesham	Stanton Fitzwarren	Wanborough	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	7	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Whooping Cough	—	11	11	1	6	12	13	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	55
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	177	95	85	21	7	115	5	1	4	20	14	7	2	9	562
Pneumonia	1	5	—	—	—	13	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	5	26
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	3	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	179	132	103	22	14	161	18	1	5	20	16	7	2	14	694

**Scarlet Fever:** 12 cases were recorded compared with 17 and 30 in 1952 and 1951 respectively; the disease was of a mild nature usually without complications.

**Whooping Cough:** The 55 cases notified were only half that of the preceding year.

**Diphtheria:** No case was notified, the last being in 1945 (4).

**Measles:** The disease reached epidemic proportions with 562 cases compared with 14 and 372 in 1952 and 1951 respectively. The biennial epidemic pattern of the disease continued; as with Scarlet Fever, few complications arose.

**Pneumonia:** Compared with 1952 the incidence of 26 cases more than trebled, but was not confined to any particular age group.

**Meningococcal Infection:** Of the 3 cases recorded only one was in the civilian population, the remainder occurred in the United States Air Force.

**Dysentery:** Only 11 cases were notified compared with 39 in 1952. No definite source of infection could be traced.

**Smallpox:** No suspected or confirmed cases were investigated.

**Paratyphoid and Typhoid Fevers:** No cases came to light.

**Poliomyelitis:** Although the incidence of the disease throughout England and Wales reached epidemic proportions, only 7 cases, 5 paralytic and 2 non-paralytic were notified from this area; of these 4 occurred in the United States Air Force Personnel and 1 from the Royal Air Force Personnel and were probably infected elsewhere.

**Food Poisoning:** It is satisfactory to note a nil return.

### **TUBERCULOSIS** **New Cases**

Year				No. of cases
1953	...	...	...	61
1952	...	...	...	32
1951	...	...	...	29
1950	...	...	...	22



Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows:—

Age	New cases	Male Deaths	New cases	Female Deaths	Total	
	Male		Female		New cases	Deaths
Under 1 yr. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 yrs. ...	—	—	1	—	1	—
5-15 yrs. ...	—	—	1	—	1	—
15-25 yrs ...	18	—	4	—	22	—
25-35 yrs ...	10	—	5	—	15	—
35-45 yrs. ...	8	—	—	1	8	1
45-55 yrs. ...	4	—	1	—	5	—
55-65 yrs. ...	4	1	2	—	6	1
65 and over	2	1	—	—	2	1
Age unknown	1	—	—	—	1	—
Total ...	47	2	14	1	61	3

The figure of 61 shows an increase of 29 over the 1952 figure. Of these 12 were notified from the United States Air Force Hospital at Burderop Park and 15 from the Royal Air Force Hospital at Wroughton and were probably infected elsewhere. The question of re-housing all cases is constantly examined by the Housing Accommodation Committee and all new and outstanding cases were re-housed during 1953.

#### **Housing of Tuberculosis Patients.**

During the year 2 cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing and 5 were re-housed. These cases were classified as follows:—

**Certificate No. 1.** Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

**Certificate No. 2.** Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patients health.

**Certificate No. 3.** Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year.

Type of Case				No. cases referred	No. cases rehoused
Certificate No. 1	...	...	...	1	—
Certificate No. 2	...	...	...	1	5
Certificate No. 3	...	...	...	—	—
TOTAL				2	5



## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

### **Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and attention.**

During the year several cases were investigated and transfer effected. It is pleasing to report that it was not found necessary to resort to compulsion in any case.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT**

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District.

### **Hospital Facilities.**

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret and Swindon, which also provide accommodation for maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital, Swindon; the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

### **Other Facilities.**

Arrangements for the following services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee:—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children;

Domiciliary Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and immunisation;

Ambulances and ambulance cars;

Domestic helps;

Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; health education;

Mental Health Service.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out by General Practitioners and County Council Medical Officers and the following table gives details for the year under review:—

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Primary imms. completed during 1953 ...	83	91	19	8	11	44	10	266
Reinf. inj. administered during 1952 ...	—	—	—	—	28	170	68	266
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1953 ...	35	151	207	192	201	†278 *1240	†689 *736	3729

\* Last treated since 1/1/49.

† Last treated before 31/12/48.

Compared with 1952 the number of primary immunisations declined from 284 to 266. Similarly, the number of re-inforcing injections administered decreased from 322 to 266. Also, the total immunised child population at the end of the year was 3729 compared with 3629.

## VACCINATION

Age Group	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations ...	104	8	6	7	8
Re-Vaccinations	—	—	1	6	32

# REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953, on the work carried out by my Department.

As one of the team of workers engaged in the protection and improvement of public health I do feel that the high standard of health enjoyed by the people in the past was satisfactorily maintained and possibly improved upon during the year. It was particularly pleasing to note the very low incidence of infectious disease, which allowed a greater amount of routine work to be carried out which should show results in future years and keep up the standards already achieved.

It is worth reporting that the public are seeking advice from the Department more and more, looking upon the Sanitary Inspector for assistance and help instead of as an enforcement officer of the Council.

The broad nature of the work of environmental hygiene necessitates the close co-operation of all persons within the public health sphere, and also other Council Departments. I, therefore, would like to record my thanks and appreciation for the help and assistance received from all Departments of the Council, and especially the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the Public Health and Housing Committees, and Members of the Council for their continued support during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. UNDERWOOD,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and  
Housing Officer.*

January, 1954.

## SECTION ONE

### NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING 1953.

#### Sanitation.

					Year	
					1952	1953
1.	Disinfestation	...	...	...		11
2.	Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	242	461
3.	Factories Act 1937	...	...	...	148	228
4.	Interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	182	270
5.	Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	241	48
6.	Knackers Yards	...	...	...	46	56
7.	Offensive Trades	...	...	...	94	12
8.	Outworkers	...	...	...	1	8
9.	Petroleum Consolidation Acts	...	...	...	151	65
10.	Public Cleansing	...	...	...	324	299
11.	Rag Flock Act 1951	...	...	...	—	11
12.	Rivers, Pollution, etc.	...	...	...	155	63
13.	Rodent Control	...	...	...	599	523
14.	Schools	...	...	...	26	16
15.	Shops Act	...	...	...	6	39
16.	Verminous Persons and Dirty Premises	...	...	...	34	62
17.	Water Samples taken	...	...	...	122	110
18.	Water Supplies	...	...	...	525	243

#### Inspection of Food and Food Premises.

1.	Meat Inspection	...	...	...	310	246
2.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	74	44
3.	Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	—	41
4.	Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	—	35
5.	Icecream Production	...	...	...	80	51
6.	Licensed Premises (Public houses)	...	...	...	68	53
7.	Other Food Premises	...	...	...	233	181
8.	Preserved food premises	...	...	...	—	24
9.	Visits re: Sampling milk	...	...	...	122	132
10.	Visits re: Retail Dairies	...	...	...		35

#### Housing Inspections.

1.	Housing Inspections: Public Health Act	...	181	231
2.	.. .. Housing Act	...		169

3.	“	“	Rural Housing Survey	68	77
4.	Moveable Dwellings	...	...	345	423
5.	Visits re: Council house applications	...	...	761	224
6.	Requisitioned property	...	...	39	19
7.	Applications re: Civil Building Licences	...	...	170	20
8.	Miscellaneous Council House visits	...	...	—	2090

### **Infectious Diseases.**

1.	Disinfection	...	...	...	} 221	3
2.	Visits and enquiries	...	...	...		30
3.	Miscellaneous Unspecified	...	...	...		254 338
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					6287	6991

NOTE—Certain items in the 1952 Report have been sub-divided to give more detailed information for 1953.

## WATER SUPPLY GENERALLY

The consumption of water throughout the District has increased over that used in 1952. This was expected in view of the fact that 280 new connections were made to the mains during the year.

During the year extensions have been carried out to the mains, to enable additional dwellings and farms to receive a supply of wholesome water as follows:—

At Little Hinton a number of dwellings and farms received a supply of water from the Church Commissioners, which supply was intermittent. The Council have now extended their mains to supply this hamlet.

The scheme prepared in 1952 to give a supply to three farm units at South Marston namely, Nightingale Farm, Roves Farm and Priors Farley Farm was carried out during the year.

In view of the increased number of dwellings erected in the Perry's Lane area at Wroughton, it was necessary to lay a water main from High Street to Perry's Lane to augment the supply.

A new main has been laid to supply a private estate (Redlands Close) at Highworth.

The scheme for the laying of a main to Sevenhampton in the Parish of Highworth was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year and work was commenced on the last day of the year, the supply will therefore be available during 1954.

Work has not been commenced on the Northern Water Supply Scheme, although the pipes have been ordered, and delivery is expected early in 1954. Part of this scheme includes for an elevated water tower and booster at Blunsdon, which is urgently required, and it is hoped that every effort will be made during the coming year to put this work in hand, as at the present time complaints are being received from a number of residents at Blunsdon regarding the lack of pressure and occasionally no pressure at all.

## RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES.

### BISHOPSTONE SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Clear and bright.

Reaction.	pH 7.2	1952	1953
			Parts per million
Free and Saline Ammonia		0.028	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia ...		0.008	0.005
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...		11	10
equivalent to Sodium Chloride		16	17
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...		0.39	0.22
Nitrite ... ..		absent	trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate		1.7	2.4
Total Solids ... ..		305	374
Loss on ignition ... ..		5	35
Appearance on ignition ...	No charring		slight charring
Hardness. Temporary ...		221	252
Permanent ... ..		45	41
Total ... ..		266	293
Lead & Copper ... ..		absent	absent

Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

### HAM ROAD, WANBOROUGH.

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and clear

Reaction.	pH 7.0	1952	1953
			Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide ...		41	48
Free and Saline Ammonia		0.034	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia ...		0.024	0.03
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...		13	11
equivalent to Sodium Chloride		22	18
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...		0.58	0.24
Nitrite ... ..		absent	absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate		3.3	2.9
Total Solids ... ..		435	450
Loss on ignition ... ..		30	35
Appearance on ignition ...	very slight charring		slight charring
Hardness. Temporary ...		320	313
Permanent ... ..		30	37
Total ... ..		350	350
Lead & Copper ... ..		absent	absent

Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.



## GADBOURNE SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and clear.

**Reaction.** pH 7.0      **Free Chlorine.** Absent.

	1952	1953
		Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	9	44.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.03	0.005
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.02	0.01
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...	13	7.0
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	22	12.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...	0.54	0.27
Nitrite ... ..	absent	Slight trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate	0.6	2.4
Total Solids ... ..	480	470.0
Loss on ignition ... ..	20	40.0
Appearance on ignition ...	very slight charring	Slight charring
Hardness. Temporary ...	223	325.0
Permanent ... ..	(all temporary)	
	223	355.0
Lead & Copper ... ..	absent	absent
Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.		
HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.		

## OGBOURNE ST. GEORGE SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and Clear.

**Reaction.** pH 7.00      **Free Chlorine.** Absent.

	1952	1953
		Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	44	45.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.02	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.12	0.023
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...	13	11.0
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	22	18.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...	0.70	0.24
Nitrite ... ..	faint trace	slight trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate	3.0	3.0
Total Solids ... ..	440	460.0
Loss on ignition ... ..	35	50.0
Appearance on ignition ...	slight charring	some charring
Hardness. Temporary ...	324	315.0
Permanent ... ..	34	38.0
	358	353.0
Lead ... ..	absent	absent
Copper ... ..	0.75	
Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.		
HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.		



### ASHTON KEYNES SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** Bright and clear. No colour or smell.

**Reaction.** pH 7.4      **Free Chlorine.** Absent.

	1952	1953
		Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	13	9.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.05	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.037	0.04
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...	14	15.5
equivalent to		
Sodium Chloride ...	23	25.5
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...	0.39	0.064
Nitrite ... ..	absent	Faint trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate	1.2	1.0
Total Solids ... ..	370	346.0
Loss on ignition ... ..	25	41.0
Appearance on ignition ...	slight darkening	No charring
Hardness. Temporary ...	251	239.0
Permanent ...	14	28.0
<hr/>		
Total ...	265	265.0
Lead & Copper ... ..	absent	absent
Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.		

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

### LATTON SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** No colour in depth, or smell. Bright.

**Reaction.** pH 7.4      **Free Chlorine.** Absent.

	1952	1953
		Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	23	12.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.004	0.024
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.004	0.024
Chlorine (as chlorides) ...	23	30.0
equivalent to		
Sodium Chloride ...	38	50.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.) ...	0.14	0.21
Nitrite ... ..	absent	Faint trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate	0.6	0.82
Total Solids ... ..	480	413.0
Loss on ignition ... ..	20	40.0
Appearance on ignition ...	very slight	slight charring
Hardness. Temporary ...	291	278.0
Permanent ...	25	20.0
<hr/>		
Total ...	316	298.0
Lead & Copper ... ..	absent	absent
Probable Number of B.Coli in 100 ml. water—NIL.		

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

## WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

### Bacteriological.

			No. Fit	No. Unfit	Total
Public Supplies	...	...	46	—	46
Private Supplies	...	...	5	—	5
Individual Supplies	...	...	16	28	44
Mixed (Public and Individual)	...	...	1	4	5
TOTAL			68	32	100

### Chemical.

Public Supplies	...	...	6	—	6
Private Supplies	...	...	1	—	1
Individual Supplies	...	...	3	—	3
TOTAL			10	—	10

**Total number of Water Samples taken.     ...     110.**

**REPORT ON SAMPLES OF WATER SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIES.**

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action Taken
Blunsdon	Blunsdon Abbey	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	27 St. Phillips Road	Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	16 Shrivenham Road	Suspicious	Demolition Order made
Highworth	Hangmans Elm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	14-15 The Pitchens	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	14-15 The Pitchens	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	Groundwell Rd. Cotts.	Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	The Stones	Unsatisfactory	Demolition Order made
Blunsdon	"Trueman" Hunts Hill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	Vickers Armstrong Ltd.	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	Vickers Armstrong Ltd.	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	1 & 2 Lock Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	Owners/occupiers notified.
S. Marston	Coronation Garage	Highly Satisfactory	Reported to Committee.
Blunsdon	Widhill Cottages (well)	Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Widhill Cotts. tap in kitchen)	Suspicious	Check samples taken.
Wroughton	The Forge, 8 Devizes Road	Unsatisfactory	Check samples taken.
Wroughton	Tarrant's Field, High St.	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified.
Highworth	Hangmans Elm	Highly Satisfactory	Reported to Committee.
Blunsdon	Lower Widhill Cotts. (Well)	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Lower Widhill Cotts. (tap in kitchen)	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee.
Blunsdon	Upper Widhill Lane (Harrison & Gee)	Highly Satisfactory	Letters to owner and occupiers.
Stratton	158 Beechcroft Road (also supplies 156 & 160)	Unsatisfactory	Nil
Stratton	154 Beecherof Road (also supplies 152)	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee. Owners and occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Stratton	162 Beechcroft Road (also supplies 164)	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	148 Beechcroft Road (also supplies 146)	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	140 Beechcroft Road (also supplies 138)	Suspicious	
Hannington	Byde Mill Farm. No. 1	Unsatisfactory	Owner making arrangements for connection to mains.
Hannington	Byde Mill Farm. No. 2	Unsatisfactory	
Hannington	Byde Mill Farm. No. 3	Unsatisfactory	
Blunsdon	Thatched Cott. Blunsdon Hill	Unsatisfactory	
Blunsdon	Chapel Cottage	Unsatisfactory	Occupier notified. For Action Housing Act 1936 Section 11.
Chisledon	10 Badbury	Unsatisfactory	ditto
			Owner/occupier notified. For action under Housing Act 1936, Section 11.

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action Taken
Chisledon	30 Badbury	Unsatisfactory	Owners/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains. Owner notified. Mains not available at present. Nil
Chisledon	26 Badbury	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	41 Ermin Street	Unsatisfactory	
Wanboro'	Woodlands, Callas Hill	Unsatisfactory	
Wanboro'	Mr. Passmore, Callas Hill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	36 & 37 Eastrop	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	11 Church Walk	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified.
Stratton	10 Church Walk	Unsatisfactory	Owner and occupier notified.
Stratton	8 Church Walk (also supplies No. 9)	Unsatisfactory	Owner and occupier notified.
Stratton	27 St. Phillips Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner and occupier notified.
Stratton	1 & 3 Swindon Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner and occupiers notified.
S. Marston	The Elms Coronation Garage	Highly Satisfactory	Nil

### PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action taken
B'stone	The Rails	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
B'stone	The Rails	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	Standtap on roadside (The Street, S'hmpn.)	Satisfactory	Nil
B'stone	The Reservoir	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	3 Foxhill Cottages	Highly Satisfactory	Nil

### MIXED SUPPLIES (PUBLIC and INDIVIDUAL)

Parish	Where taken	Result	Action Taken
S. Marston	Drinking Fountain No. 2	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
	Shop, Vickers A'strong		
Blunsdon	Marshfield Cottages	Suspicious	Arrangements being made for impure supply to be cut off and mains supply to be connected.
Blunsdon	Lower Widhill Cotts.	Suspicious	
Blunsdon	Chapel Farm House	Suspicious	
Blunsdon	Widhill Farm House	Suspicious	

## PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action taken
Wroughton	6 Brimble Hill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	41 Station Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Liddington	Standtap in roadway	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ambrose Cottage	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	1 Council Houses	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	Catsbrain Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. F'warren	28 Trenchard Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Tucks Cottage, Kingsdown Lane	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
H. Wick	5 High Street	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	5 Wroughton Hall	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
B'stone	3 Council Houses Hinton Parva	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	20 Park Street	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Inglesham	7 Lynt Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Hanningtn.	2 Vicarage Cotts.	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
C. Eaton	Standtap on Roadside	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	76 Perrys Lane	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Marsh Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Standtap, Hunts Hill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	Upper Snodshill Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	Old Farm, Snodshill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Newlands Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Hanningtn.	Standtap, Nr. Jolly Tar	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	Berkeley Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	Artis Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	78 Perrys Lane	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	45 Station Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Liddington	Standtap in Roadway	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ham Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ambrose Cottage	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	12 Beechcroft Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	1 Council Houses	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. F'warren	Sims Cottage	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Hannington	7 Queens Cottages	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
C. Eaton	Standtap on Roadside	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	1 New Council Houses	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	147 Swindon Road	Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	Standtap, Brewery St.	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Standtap, Hunts Hill	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
C. Eaton	Standtap in Roadway	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Hannington	10 Queens Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	Standtap, Shrivenham Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	36 Kingsdown Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Liddington	Standtap in Roadway	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Headlands, Ham Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	21 Station Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	5 Wroughton Hall	Highly Satisfactory	Nil



## WATER SAMPLING

Water from all the public and private supplies in the District are sampled for bacteriological examination once per month, and chemical examination once per year. The chemical analyses can only be compared as in the form set out showing results of the examination each year. The variation can readily be seen, and in all the cases shown the variation is slight, and where the bacteriological results are satisfactory or highly satisfactory the water supply for the area is satisfactory in (a) quality and (b) quantity. Lead is absent in all supplies tested, and it is pleasing to note the absence of copper from the Ogbourne St. George supply. Throughout the year the bacteriological results have shown complete absence of any contamination.

Samples have been taken of individual well supplies to private houses in 44 cases, and of these 28 were suspicious or unsatisfactory. Action was taken in all cases where a mains supply was available for a mains supply to be provided, recourse to Statutory Action under the Water Act 1945 Section 30, only being necessary in six cases.

More and more it is found the public, both tenants and owners, are realising the necessity for all homes to be provided with a pure and wholesome water supply brought in pipes into the houses, but it is often forgotten that Public Health Departments have been pressing for this most essential of services to be provided for nearly a century. An instance can be given in the case of the Parish of South Marston, where in the Annual Report of 1905 a plea was made for a main supply in the village, this supply was fully augmented in the Parish in 1953, with the exception of some houses in the Shrivenham Road area.

During the year all Parishes have been adequately supplied with water, although there is a need for speedy action in the case of Blunsdon St. Andrew, where often the water pressure is very poor, in fact at times absent. It is hoped that the proposed works for increasing the pressure and providing an adequate supply will soon be put in hand. All the public supplies are chlorinated.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 138.**  
**AS AMENDED BY THE WATER ACT 1945, SECTION 30.**

**Summary of work carried out under the above act.**

Number of Water Act Notices complied with during 1953 ...	12
Number of Water Act Notices served during the year ...	6
Number of connections made due to informal action by the Department ... ..	14

**Notices complied with during 1953.**

- 16 Dore's Road, Stratton.
- G. Hatches Cottage, Hinton Parva.
- Post Office, Hinton Parva.
- Simpkins Cottage, Hinton Parva.
- Kiama Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.
- The Grove, Hinton Parva.
- Lacock, Hyde Road, Blunsdon.
- 158 Beechcroft Road, Stratton.
- 140 Beechcroft Road, Stratton.
- 138 Beechcroft Road, Stratton.
- 41 Ermin Street, Stratton.
- 30 Badbury, Chisledon.

**Water Connections made 1953.**

Total Number connections made by Highworth R.D.C. ...	243
Total Number connections made by Swindon Borough ...	37

**DETAILS OF PARISH IN HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT WITH NUMBER OF POPULATION SUPPLIED WITH WATER INTO HOUSES, OR FROM STANDPIPES**  
 (These figures relate to public water mains only and do not include public water supplies at Chisledon, Sevenhampton and Bishopstone).

Parish	Est. pop.	Approx. No. of houses	Direct to house			From Standpipes		
			No. hses.	Est. pop.	% pop.	No. hses.	Est. pop.	% pop.
Bishopstone	630	176	88	315	50.0	24	84	11.7
Blunsdon St. Andrew	1115	313	222	790	71.8	30	108	9.7
Castle Eaton	235	65	25	98	41.7	23	92	39.2
Chisledon	2150	500	385	1654	76.9	13	55	2.5
Hannington	245	73	40	140	57.1	8	28	11.4
Haydon Wick	440	163	163	440	100%	—	—	—
Highworth	3510	915	800	3070	87.4	46	180	5.1
Inglesham	150	44	38	130	87.0	5	16	10.6
Liddington	360	105	70	236	65.5	25	89	24.7
South Marston	505	157	125	404	80.0	2	7	1.4
Stanton Fitzwarren	170	49	48	167	98.2	1	3	1.8
Stratton St. Margaret	7590	2139	2129	7555	99.41	—	—	—
Wanborough	1210	288	245	1028	85.0	19	80	6.6
Wroughton	3150	993	948	3002	95.3	20	63	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	21460	5980	5326	19029	88.7	216	805	3.7



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The scheme which was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the drainage of Stratton St. Margaret to discharge into the central interceptor sewer being laid by the Swindon Corporation, which was approved in principle, has progressed, and it is anticipated that the work will be put in hand during 1954.

In 1950 the Council submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the construction of new sewage works at Highworth, the scheme was deferred owing to the Government's economy policy. It is now possible to report that the scheme has now been brought forward, and work should be commenced on this scheme during 1954.

The laying of a new sewer through Westrop to replace the old drock sewer which was in a very bad state, has been carried out during the year.

The temporary scheme for dealing with the sewerage of Castle Eaton was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. An enquiry was held and the Inspector agreed with the Council's Engineer, that the temporary scheme would not be satisfactory. The Ministry have now suggested that a further scheme be prepared for the village, this will include for a pumping scheme, etc., details of which will be prepared by the Council's Engineer during 1954.

The present outfall from the combined sewer at Hannington discharged into an open ditch. During the year a scheme was prepared, in conjunction with a housing project, for the laying of an outfall sewer together with tanks and filters. This scheme was approved by the Ministry and the work put in hand during the latter part of the year, and will be completed during 1954.

At the present time there are no public sewers at Blunsdon. The Council intend to erect a number of houses in the Parish during 1954 and the opportunity has been taken to site the proposed sewage works in such a position so as to receive the drainage from as much of the Parish as is possible by gravitation. The scheme has not yet received approval by the Ministry, but early approval is expected.

The sewer at Stanton Fitzwarren has been extended to allow development of nine dwellings.

As the Council are proposing to erect approximately 50 houses on their Castle View Estate, Chiseldon, during 1954, it was possible to include in the scheme for the drainage of approximately 20 existing properties and 12 new dwellings being erected under private enterprise, which work it is hoped will be carried out during 1954.

During the year a complaint was received from the Swindon Corporation regarding the effluent from Chisledon Sewage Works being discharged into the water course which ultimately arrives at Coate Water, within the Borough. The Council were satisfied that the Corporation had no grounds for complaint, as the effluent was very satisfactory having regard to all the circumstances. A scheme for improvements to the works was approved by the Ministry in 1952 and as the necessary pipes and fittings arrive the scheme will go forward, with it is hoped all speed, as these works are far from satisfactory.

The Ministry have during the year given approval to the erection of Garage and Depot for use by the refuse vehicles, and this was erected and put into use at the end of the year.

The Council have submitted a proposal for the erection of public conveniences at Stratton St. Margaret. Tenders have been invited and the lowest submitted to the Ministry for approval.

## DRAINAGE WORKS

Supervised by the Public Health Dept. in 1953.

Parish	New drainage provided	W.Cs. installed	Bathroom installed
Bishopstone ... ..	2	3	3
Blunsdon St. Andrew ...	1	1	1
Castle Eaton ... ..	—	—	—
Chisledon ... ..	—	1	—
Hannington ... ..	1	1	1
Haydon Wick ... ..	—	—	—
Highworth ... ..	9	3	1
Inglesham ... ..	—	—	—
Liddington ... ..	1	1	1
South Marston ... ..	2	2	1
Stanton Fitzwarren ...	1	1	1
Stratton St. Margaret ...	3	4	—
Wanborough ... ..	4	5	1
Wroughton ... ..	2	6	1
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 269.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS and CARAVAN SITES

Number of Licences issued during the year (individual) ...	31
Number of Licences refused ... ..	12
Number of Site Licences issued ... ..	nil
Number of Site Licences refused ... ..	nil
Total Number of Individual caravan licences in force, December, 1953 ... ..	28
Total Number of Site Licences in force, December, 1953 ...	3
Total Number of Caravans on Sites ... ..	44
Total Number of Caravans without licences and referred to Town and Country Planning ... ..	6
Total Number of Visits paid (including visits to casual campers) ... ..	423

## TOTAL NUMBER OF CARAVANS LICENSED INCLUDING THOSE ON SITES.

Parish	1952	1953	Parish	1952	1953
Bishopstone ... ..	2	—	Liddington ... ..	1	—
Blunsdon St. Andrew ...	14	39	Stratton St. Margaret ...	25	15
Chisledon ... ..	4	—	South Marston ... ..	—	1
Castle Eaton ... ..	1	—	Wanborough ... ..	2	2
Highworth ... ..	7	3	Wroughton ... ..	13	5
Inglesham ... ..	10	10			
	1949	...	21		
	1950	...	46		
	1951	...	67		
	1952	...	79		
	1953	...	75		

It would appear from the yearly table of caravans in the District that the peak demand for this type of accommodation has been reached and is now declining. This coincides with the peak building year for the Council, there being nearly double the amount of houses completed, and in addition to the freedom of private building licencing. The demand appears to keep up mainly due to house-owners who paid inflated prices moving into caravans so as to obtain the best price for their houses in case the price drops still lower.

In addition a large camping site with all modern conveniences capable at this stage of taking 50 caravans was opened during the year, but because of the weakness in Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, it was not possible to demand that all caravans should be sited on the approved site, and in many cases this would have been possible without hardship to the occupiers. However, 24 caravans are now on the site and during the year the standards on the site were excellent.

The need for daily visits in case of prosecution does increase the amount of work under this heading out of proportion to its importance, but as housebuilding increases there may be a further reduction in caravans and also in visits.

### FACTORIES ACT 1937

Being predominantly agricultural, the number of major factories in the District is low. There is however, Vickers Armstrongs Ltd. Aircraft Factory at South Marston, which employs some 2,000 workers, and the factory covers many acres in extent. The standards under the provisions of the Factories Act as applied by the Local Authority are very high, and every help is given to the Department in carrying out its duties.

The false geographical claims to the location of this Factory create problems, but it is pleasing to know we are envied the very large factory, and similarly that of Messrs. Marine Mountings Ltd. at Wroughton. This again is a factory of great importance, particularly to the export drive, and employs some 350 workers.

Factories the size of these create a very real problem with regard to the housing of the workers, and I must say that this Authority with its large programme of industrial housing has tackled the problem with real determination and vigour.

The smaller factories are visited regularly to prevent any breaches of the duties imposed on the Rural Authority, and speaking generally the results of regular inspections over several years has improved the standards in many cases over and above that required under the Act. There is good co-operation between the Department and that of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

#### **List of factories in the District**

Type of Work carried out	Number
Aero Manufacturers and repairs	3
Agricultural Crop Drying	3
Animal Residuals	1
Bakers and Confectioners	13
Brewing and Aerated Waters	2
Brickmaking	1
Bacon Curing	1
Blacksmiths	4
Boot Repairs	5
Concrete Block Making	1
Clock Assembly	1
Electronics	1
Engineering, including Motor vehicle repairs	28
Food Canning	1
Founders and Welders	1
Gut Scraper	1
Joinery, woodwork, undertaking and wheelwright	22
Letter file Manufacturer	1
Laundry	1
Mat and Rug Manufacturer	1
Metal Sorting	2
Pig Food Processer	1
Paper Baling	1
Radio and Television Repairs	1
Saddlers	2
Sausage making	1
Tailoring	3
Upholstering	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>

During the year 8 informal notices were served upon the owners and occupiers of factories in respect of breaches of the Act. These consisted principally of absence of suitable and sufficient lavatory accommodation, want of cleanliness, and defective paving. In other cases verbal notice was given in respect of minor infringements.

### OUTWORKERS.

During the year 5 outworkers were notified and home conditions were inspected in every case. The homework carried out was glovemaking, clothing, and letter-file making. Conditions found were satisfactory.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948. SECTION 50.

No action was necessary under the provisions of the above Act during 1953.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS.

It will be observed that the number of investigations carried out in connection with infectious diseases decreased considerably in 1953.

Altogether 21 cases were investigated compared with 65 in 1952.

The table below will give the diseases in Parish Order.

Parish	1952	1953
Bishopstone ... ..	nil	1 Undulant Fever
Blunsdon St. Andrew ...	nil	1 Food poisoning
Castle Eaton ... ..	nil	1 Scarlet Fever
Chisledon ... ..	2 Scarlet Fever	1 Dysentery
	1 Meningitis	
	1 Poliomyelitis	
	1 Dysentery	
Hannington ... ..	nil	nil
Haydon Wick ... ..	nil	nil
Highworth ... ..	2 Scarlet Fever	nil
Inglesham ... ..	nil	nil
Liddington ... ..	nil	1 Scarlet Fever
South Marston ... ..	nil	1 Poliomyelitis
Stanton Fitzwarren ...	nil	nil
Stratton St. Margaret	4 Scarlet Fever	13 Scarlet Fever
	1 Poliomyelitis	
Wanborough ... ..	nil	1 Scarlet Fever
Wroughton .. ..	3 Scarlet Fever	37 Dysentery
	5 Dysentery	1 Undulant Fever
		1 Typhoid Fever
		6 Food poisoning



## **INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.**

During the year some schools have been inspected where serious defects had been reported to the County Council implying that some works were necessary. A meeting took place between the Representatives of the County Council and the Highworth Rural District Council with regard to the defects which had been notified to them. The interview was very satisfactory, and a better understanding was arrived at between all parties.

The difficulty of the County Council with regard to the repair and modernisation of schools was fully appreciated, and an assurance was given that the works needed would be carried out as soon as the financial position allowed them to do the works.

It was felt that more financial aid should be given to the County Councils to get more hygienic conditions where children are being educated in hygiene as well as other subjects.

Some minor works have been completed in 1953, and it is hoped in the 1954 Annual Report good progress will be reported.

## **PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACTS 1928 and 1936.**

While work under this Act is not strictly speaking public health work, it is a duty imposed on the Department, and the inspectorial work carried out during the year does guarantee the maximum safety of filling stations for the road-user. It also gives facilities to the Department in respect of nuisances arising from leaky pipes, tanks, etc., and these benefits were found during the year under review, when defects did occur and speedy action was taken.

Total Number of Licences issued to store Petroleum Spirit ...	74
Total Number of licences issued to store Carbide of Calcium	1
Total Number of Inspections carried out during 1953 ...	65

## **SHOPS ACT 1950.**

The number of shops other than foodshops in the Area is 31. These shops have all been inspected during the year for likely contraventions of the Act, and action was taken in some cases with regard to sanitary accommodation, lighting, cleanliness, washing accommodation and water supply, but in the majority of shops of all kinds found in a Rural District the shops are run by family units, and no staffs are employed, and speaking generally the conditions found are good.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT 1907.**

### **Registration of Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers.**

Under the provisions of Section 86 Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907, 8 persons were registered during the year as Old Metal Dealers. No doubt it is not known by some metal dealers that these powers are in operation, and the number of registrations may be increased during the next year.

## **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.**

### **RECORD OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTROL DURING 1953.**

Property	Inspections and visits made	Properties treated	Infestn. analysis		Mice
			Major	Minor	
Council houses ...	51	19	—	11	8
Council Sewage Works, Tips, etc. ...	42	9	9	—	—
Private Dwellings ...	346	78	8	64	6
Business Premises ...	35	3	3	—	—
Agricultural Properties Infestation analysis	30	—	9	8	—
	504	109	29	83	14

5 Sewer Systems were treated, involving 130 Manholes.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

Throughout 1953 Warfarin was the sole rodenticide in use, with the exception of Sewer Treatments, the nature of which does not lend itself to the use of a dry base.

The use of this antiblood coagulant has changed the outcome of rodent treatments from one of speculation to virtual certainty, provided it is intelligently used, with suitable bases in difficult cases such as where ample foodstuffs are available.

It is particularly noticeable that whilst Warfarin ensures an effective clearance of an infestation, the fecundity of rats from unreported sources is such, that the overall number of infestations arising shows no sign of diminishing. At the same time all known habitats have been eliminated, and by constant inspection and the use of residual baiting points, no opportunity is given for any recurrence of the infestations on their former scale.

### **VERMIN, CONTROL OF**

33 premises were treated by the usual insecticides and with the usual fumigants, for the following:—

Ants ...	2	Cluster flies	1	Cockroaches ...	1
Fleas ...	12	Flies ...	11	Lice ...	1

The Council's refuse tip at Wroughton was treated with Gam-mexane periodically, in order to control fly and cricket infestations.



## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

During the year, the volume of refuse had reached the stage when considerable overtime was involved, and it became apparent, when future building programmes were taken into consideration, that an additional collecting unit was necessary. In addition, the Fordson had become particularly expensive to maintain and operate. It was decided to dispose of the Fordson and to purchase a Dennis Paxit. The new vehicle came into service on 24th August, 1953, and is proving most advantageous.

It has:—

- (a) Increased capacity.
- (b) Lower running costs by virtue of
  1. Fewer runs to the tip.
  2. Increased miles per gallon.
  3. Cheaper fuel.
  4. Lower maintenance costs.
- (c) Is more hygienic.
- (d) Its use has eliminated overtime.

It is only fair to comment that these advantages are to some extent minimised by increased loan costs, due to the greater purchase price, but having regard to all features, the vehicle is a good investment. It has been introduced in those Parishes which are Urban in character, and where non-utilisation running is at a minimum.

As a result of the cessation of the paper salvage scheme, the quantity of cardboard being placed for collection by tradespeople has increased enormously. It may well be that in order to offset the drop in revenue attributable to the paper fiasco, and the delay and inconvenience occasioned by the collection of these boxes, the Council will have to seriously consider the introduction of a scheme of charging for trade refuse.

The year has been punctuated by an abnormal number of staff changes, attributable in part, to better financial inducements. With a small staff, these changes and the annual holidays cause considerable inconvenience, and it is a tribute to all, that no collection has been missed throughout the year.

### **Staff engaged on refuse collection.**

Foreman driver; 2 drivers; 6 loaders; tipman.

### **Vehicles.**

Diesel.	1 Dennis Paxit.	Acquired 24.8.53.
Petrol.	1 Dennis 10 cu. yd..	Acquired 7.9.48.
	1 Dennis 12 cu. yd.	Acquired 31.5.51.
	1 Fordson.	Discarded 24.8.53.

**No. of Houses in District.** 5980.

**Size of District.** 48.491 acres

**No. of business premises, industrial, etc.** 326.

**Refuse Tip.** One controlled tip at Wroughton.

**Method of Collection.** Curbside. Collected weekly.

**Estimated quantity of refuse collected.** 14,400 cu. yds.

### VEHICLE WORKINGS

Vehicle	Mileage	Fuel consump. galls.	Fuel cost £ s. d.			Miles per gall.	Fuel cost per mile
Paxit	3,343	312	61	5	3	10.7	4.4d.
10 cu. yd.	9,817	1195	233	5	9	8.2	5.7d.
12 cu. yd.	11,250	1495	291	11	2	7.5	6.2d.
Fordson	5,775	877	171	11	9	6.6	7.1d.

**Overall Cost of Service.** (Including overheads, loan charges, Depreciation, etc.) **£4,968.**

**Cost per premise per Annum.** 15s. 9d.

### SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

As anticipated, the separate collection and salvage of paper became an uneconomical proposition towards the end of 1952, and in February, 1953, the remaining stocks were cleared and further salvage ceased.

In consequence, the revenue from salvage has dropped appreciably and so far as can be seen is unlikely to rise again.

Material			1953						1952							
			Weight				Value		Weight				Value			
			T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	13	11	2	14	67	19	6	69	16	—	7	539	17	1
Rags	...	...	—	10	—	—	10	—	—	2	9	—	12	40	14	8
Sacking	...	...	—	5	1	—	3	3	—	2	4	3	9	15	4	3
Ferrous metals	...	...	—	16	3	—	3	11	2	5	9	1	—	18	4	—
Tins	...	...	20	7	—	—	81	8	—	17	—	3	—	68	3	—
Battery	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bottles	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	238½	doz.	—	—	7	18	11
TOTAL	...	...	35	10	2	14	166	15	8	97	—	—	—	690	1	11

SECTION TWO.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Progress in maintaining improvements in food premises in the District was satisfactorily maintained during 1953. No formal action was required under the Food & Drugs Act 1938, and occupiers of shop premises willingly co-operated following inspection and advice given by the Inspectors.

As previously reported the type of business obtaining in rural districts usually only involves the owner of the business and a member of his own family, with possibly one assistant. It is felt in the main that with regular visits and advice given this type of business will maintain a high standard of food hygiene and it is only in rare cases that neglect is found. Speaking generally, for a rural district the food premises are satisfactory.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER FOOD & DRUG ACT 1938. SECTION 14.

Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	13
Manufacture and sale of icecream	...	...	...	1
Sale of pre-packed icecream ...	...	...	...	60

Bakehouses.

There are 13 bakehouses in the District, of which 12 are in use, the other is closed pending certain necessary alterations specified by my Department.

Of the 12 in use, 10 are in all respects satisfactory as regards structure, three of these having been extensively improved and extended during the year. I am pleased to report that the standard of cleanliness in 8 of these is very good. Two of the bakehouses in the District are the subject of informal action to improve storage facilities, and cleanliness, whilst the remaining bakehouse is a small one man business which caters for a small circle of old customers where a small quantity of bread and cakes are baked twice per week. The structure here is unsatisfactory, but a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Public Houses.

In 1951 a complete survey of the 50 licensed premises in the District was carried out, the owners were notified by letter of any defects found and agreed to meet with the requirements of my Department dealing with several houses per year until all required works were completed. The improvements have proceeded during 1952 and 1953, and the policy adopted has meant that the facilities and general standards of the licensed premises have greatly improved over the past two years.

During the year inspection has been made of all licensed premises in the District, and the following is a summary of the situation as at December 1953.

Number of licensed premises ...	...	...	...	50
Satisfactory ...	...	...	...	35
Requiring improvement to sanitary accommodation or glass washing facilities ...	...	...	...	12
Requiring extensive structural improvement ...	...	...	...	3

### **Butchers Shops.**

During the year 2 butchers shops have been closed and 1 new shop opened giving a total of 11. The general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. Improvements have been made at 2 premises during 1953.

### **Cafes.**

There are 10 cafes in the District including 2 which cater almost exclusively for transport drivers. Frequent visits are made to these premises which has resulted in improving the general standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Structural improvements have been made to 2 premises and further improvements are envisaged during 1954.

### **Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.**

Of the six premises in the District 2 are combined wet fish and fried fish shops; 2 are combined wet fish, fried fish, and green-grocers; the remaining 2 being fried fish shops attached to cafe, and a general provisions premises respectively. These premises have been maintained in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

### **Works Canteens, Hostels and School Meals Cooking Dept.**

There are 8 such premises in the District, all of which are closely supervised and thoroughly satisfactory.

### **St. Margaret's Bacon Factory, Stratton St. Margaret.**

During 1953 a total of 15,627 pigs were slaughtered and inspected at St. Margaret's Bacon Factory. This means that the Factory has been operating at nearly full capacity throughout the period, the pigs are slaughtered on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, and the total number killed increased by 1,628 above the 1952 total.

Each animal is inspected by my qualified Inspectors both ante-mortem and post-mortem, and as one of my Inspectors is present throughout the whole of the time that the slaughtering is being carried out, a careful control is maintained on slaughtering methods



and the dressing of the carcasses which ensure that a high standard of cleanliness is maintained. I am pleased to report that we have received excellent co-operation from the Management who are constantly putting into practice the advice given by my Department.

Following the structural alterations made during 1952 the premises are now entirely satisfactory, apart from shortage of hanging space. The emphasis is now based on hygiene and using the facilities to the best possible advantage.

Here it must be appreciated that the industry in common with other industries, cannot obtain the type of skilled labour it would like, which means that the casual unskilled labour available requires constant education in the principles of hygiene, and as so often happens when employees have learned these requirements, they leave and the new recruits have to be trained from scratch.

In view of the recent incidence of Trichinosis in the North Country, I felt it advisable to commence inspection for any incidence of this parasite in animals slaughtered in this Area. I have therefore, arranged with the Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory for a series of specimens to be submitted weekly. The first specimens were submitted during December and the results of examination were negative.

It is of interest to note that the percentage of pigs found to be affected with Tuberculosis has dropped from 5% to 2.9% in 1953. This can be partly attributed to the fact that the breeders are now aware of the waste and futility of breeding from infected stock and reflects credit on the liaison between my Department and Mr. P. R. Leckie, the Ministry of Agricultural Veterinary Inspector, in investigating cases of generalised tuberculosis found in animals bred locally, and notified to him by my Department.

I am pleased to report that although several cases of Anthrax have occurred in the neighbouring districts, no cases have occurred in pigs at the Bacon Factory, which has also been entirely free from swine fever.

### **METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOODS.**

All carcasses and offals found to be unfit for human consumption at the Bacon Factory, Stratton, are mutilated and dyed with analine dye prior to disposal to a local firm where it is processed. The small quantity of meat inspected at butchers shops and found to be unfit for human consumption is returned to the W.M.S.A. and disposed of by them.

The other foodstuffs are collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tip.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED

	1950 Pigs	1951 Pigs	1952 Pigs	1953 Pigs	Cattle, cows, sheep and lambs
No. killed ... ..	6463	6901	13899	15627	nil
No. inspected ... ..	6463	6901	13899	15627	nil
<i>All diseases except T.B.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	3	11	14	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	739	917	2122	1536	nil
Per cent of no. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	11.4	13.3	15.3	9.92	nil
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	4	11	25	27	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	230	284	667	423	nil
Per cent of no. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	3.5	4.2	5.0	2.9	nil

### UN SOUND FOOD. (Bacon Factory).

41 complete carcasses & organs	290 lbs. Forequarters
126 lbs. Hindquarters	89 lbs. Gammon
24 lbs. Flanks	10 lbs. trimmings
122 lbs. Collars	2 pig spleens
2 Tenderloins	291 pig heads
190 pig plucks	401 pig livers
1228 pig lungs	261 pig hearts
349 pig guts	471 pig kidneys
20 pig flecks	

In addition during the year the following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption, and surrender notes issued to the shopkeepers concerned.

359 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Beef	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Pork
6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Sugar	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Bovine liver
100 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Flour	28 lbs. Cheese
10 tins Cooked Ham, 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	39 tins Luncheon Meat, 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
3 tins Ox Tongue, 19 lbs.	6 tins Brawn, 30 lbs.
8 tins Frozen Egg, 294 lbs.	15 tins Minced Beef, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
62 tins Plums, 302 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	60 tins Peas, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1 tin Jellied Veal, 6 lbs.	3 tins Apricot Pulp, 6 lbs.
3 tins Pears, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	9 tins Shrimps, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
3 tins Orange Juice, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	5 tins Fruit Salad, 4 lbs.
1 tin Beans, 1 lb.	1 tin Corned Beef, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
1 tin Full Cream, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	44 tins Evaporated Milk
63 tins Tomatoes, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	

### **Slaughter of Animals Act 1933. Section 3.**

The number of licensed slaughtermen granted licences by this Authority was 24 on 31st December 1953. These licences are now granted annually in order to have more rigid control over them, and for purposes of administration.

I am pleased to say that there were no complaints in respect of any person holding such a licence during the year.

### **Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard Licences.**

In addition to St. Margaret's Bacon Factory, 4 other slaughterhouses suitably situated in the District are licensed for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs only. This is a decrease of one slaughterhouse compared with 1952. There is also one Knackers Yard licensed in the District.

These premises are inspected before the licences are granted in order that any necessary works should be carried out.



# DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

	Bishopstone	Blunsdon	Castle Eaton	Chisledon	Hannington	Haydon Wick	Highworth	Inglesham	Liddington	South Marston	Stanton Fitzwarren	Stratton St. Margaret	Wanborough	Wroughton	TOTAL
Bakers ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	5	1	2	13
Butchers	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	11
Cafes ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	8
Transport Cafes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chemists	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Wet and Fried Fish	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	6
Hostels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	2
General Provisions	1	4	1	5	1	3	11	—	1	1	—	23	3	13	68
Greengrocers	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
School Meals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cooking Dept.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sweets, Confectionery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
and Icecream	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	4	—	2	5
Works Canteens	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	7	1	11	1	4	26	2	1	5	1	41	5	22	130

## MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

Number of Dairies Registered	...	...	...	6
Number of Distributors	...	...	...	39
Number of Producer/Retailers	...	...	...	30

## Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.

### Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

Number of T.T. Dealers Licences	...	...	...	6
Number of Pasteurised Dealers Licences	...	...	...	3
Number of Supplementary T.T. Dealers Licences	...	...	...	3
Number of Supplementary Pasteurised Dealers Licences	...	...	...	2

### Milk Sampling.

Number of Samples taken during 1953	...	...	...	72
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

## TESTS CARRIED OUT

Category	Methylene Blue Test			Biological examination		
	Samples taken	No. passing test	No. failing	No. samples submitted	Free from infection	Positive T.B.
Tuberculin Tested	21	16	5	21	21	—
T.T. Pasteurised	13	12	—	13	12	—
Pasteurised ...	13	12	—	10	10	—
Ungraded ...	25	8	15	22	20	2
TOTALS ...	72	48	20	66	63	2

### Milk Supplies and Milk Sampling.

The practice of taking regular routine samples from distributors to safeguard the consumers continued throughout the year and I feel the work must of necessity continue in the future. The safety of milk cannot be guaranteed, no matter what designation is given to it, unless the sampling shows the milk to be sterile. It has been found in the past that (1) milk bearing the designation tuberculin tested when biologically examined contained tubercle bacilli; (2) milk bearing the designation pasteurised was not in fact properly pasteurised sufficient to destroy the germ organisms; (3) that all grades of milk could contain evidence of brucella abortus and be likely to cause Undulant Fever in man. If sampling were cut out or decreased it may well be that less and less care would be taken

by the producers, and the consumer would have no guarantee, even in the case of pasteurisation which when efficiently carried out gives the only safe milk short of complete sterilisation.

The results of samples taken in this area shows that in general the milk distribution is of a high standard and the dairymen are enthusiastic in the work of distributing a clean safe milk every day of the year, and they have made available to the public in nearly every parish every grade of milk from the ordinary grade to T.T. pasteurised, and in turn it is noticed by house to house inspection that more and more graded milk is being used, and demanded, regardless of the slight increased cost.

### **Icecream Sampling and Supplies.**

Icecream being a milk product it naturally follows what has been said regarding milk applies also to icecream. We are assisted in so far as the majority of shops sell only pre-packed icecream of nationally known brands, and it has been found that these firms are wholeheartedly co-operating with the Local Authority in trying to produce a clean, safe, pre-packed icecream which will pass all recognised tests.

It is the practice in this District to take samples in groups of six from each firm before communication with the firm concerned so that a more general view of the samples can be taken; and during the year it is pleasing to see that the samples taken in the main achieved Grade 1 and 2. In the cases of samples being in grades 3 or 4 action has always been taken by the firms concerned, and their observations and reasons received on the likely cause of the failure; and I must say that many faults are due to shopkeepers and distributors, hence the real need for hygienic conditions where icecream is sold.

Regular inspection has been carried out by the Department at shops where icecream has been failing to reach grades 1 or 2.

No. of samples taken                      ...                      ...                      ...                      ...                      28

Provisional Grades	1	2	3	4
Results                      ...                      ...	15	10	1	2

SECTION THREE.

HOUSING

HOUSING ACT 1936.

Since 1946, steady progress has been made with regard to houses not repairable at reasonable cost, but in view of the housing shortage, repairs and maintenance licensing control and shortage of materials, works under this heading could not proceed at the pace required to remove the substandard conditions which are prevalent in many of the Parishes. Many of the houses now being dealt with are houses which are in such a state of disrepair, and decay, that nothing short of pulling down, or the application of major building operation, could give satisfactory results and allow the tenants to have the modern housing amenities, and sanitation, now enjoyed by so many families in the Area.

The housing shortage is now being met in many parishes, and licensing control, together with improvement in materials supply, is now easier, therefore more attention is now being focused on this very real social problem, and at the end of the year many cases were before Committee for action which will be dealt with in the Annual Report for 1954.

The work of preparing the necessary reports under all sections of the Housing Act requires great attention to detail as to defects found, costs of repair etc., before submission to Committee, and the term "reasonable cost" is still a real problem in discussion with all parties concerned. It is hoped that in any new enactment clarification can be given on this point.

The following tables show the work of the Department completed during 1953.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1953.

<b>1. No. of New houses and flats erected during the year.</b>					
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	191
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	31
<b>2. Inspection of Dwellings during year.</b>					
Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts					213
Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	...				115
No. dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...		43
No. dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	272
<b>3. Remedy of defects by informal action.</b>					
No. of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	205

#### 4. Action under Statutory Powers, (Public Health & Housing Acts.)

##### (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936:—

No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. nil

No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:

By owners ... .. 1

By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. nil

##### (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

No. of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served ... .. 2

No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices:

By Owners ... .. 1

By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. nil

##### (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936:—

No. of Demolition Orders made ... .. 8

No. of houses demolished as result of Demolition orders ... .. 4

No. of undertakings accepted ... .. 4

No. of undertakings completed ... .. nil

1936:—

##### (d) Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act,

No. of houses under which Demolition Orders were made ... .. nil

No. of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders ... .. nil

##### (e) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936:—

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... .. nil

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as a result of premises having been made fit ... .. nil

#### Housing Act 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

No. of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year ... .. 5

No. of cases discovered during the year ... .. 15

No. of cases abated during year ... .. 10

### RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

#### Details for 1953.

(a) Estimated number of houses in District ... .. 5980

(b) Total number of houses surveyed up to 31/12/53 ... .. 2010

#### Categorisation of houses inspected.

Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4	Cat. 5	Total
832	294	382	138	364	2010

## COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY

1. Total No. of Pre-war houses owned by H.R.D.C. ...	509
2. Total No. of houses owned or administered by Council, 31/12/53 ... ..	1651

### Types of Houses owned by H.R.D.C. 31.12.53.

#### Traditional.

Pre-war ... ..	582
Wartime Agricultural ... ..	8
Post-war houses ... ..	143
Post-war flats ... ..	6
Gregory flats ... ..	8
Experimental houses (Chick) ... ..	6
	<hr/>
	653

#### Non-traditional.

Reema houses ... ..	154
Reema flats ... ..	32
Woolaway houses ... ..	76
Cornish Unit houses ... ..	64
Cornish Unit flats ... ..	48
Airey houses ... ..	156
Swedish Timber houses ... ..	8
	<hr/>
	538

#### Bungalows.

Originally erected by the Ministry of Aircraft Production ... ..	378
---	-----

#### Old Age Bungalows.

Pre-war ... ..	27
Post-war ... ..	18
	<hr/>
	45

#### Miscellaneous Properties.

Staff houses and flats ... ..	11
Hutments ... ..	8
Site houses ... ..	8
Requisitioned houses ... ..	10
	<hr/>
	37
	<hr/>
TOTAL ... ..	1651
	<hr/>



## HOUSING PROGRESS

No. of houses completed post-war by Council	...	721
No. of houses completed post-war by Private Enterprise		118
	<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>839</b>

### Post-war houses. Number completed yearly.

Year	Private Enter- prise	Council				Total
		Traditional		Non-Traditional		
		For industry	Council applic.	For industry	Council applic.	
1946	15	—	6	—	8	29
1947	13	—	27	—	—	40
1948	9	—	37	—	46	92
1949	11	—	8	—	96	115
1950	9	—	18	—	54	81
1951	7	2	19	16	66	110
1952	23	5	17	34	71	150
1953	31	7	23	41	120	222
Total	118	14	155	91	461	839

Number of houses under construction by the Council at December 31st, 1953. **Traditional — 26. Non-traditional — 50.**



# **TYPES OF POST-WAR HOUSES BUILT IN EACH YEAR.**

Year	Traditional	Airey	Swedish Timber	Woolaway	Reema	Cornish Unit	Gregory	Experi- mental (Chick)	Total
1946	6	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	14
1947	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
1948	37	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	83
1949	8	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	104
1950	18	14	—	—	10	30	—	—	72
1951	21	—	—	22	20	38	—	2	103
1952	22	—	—	30	52	12	—	3	127
1953	30	—	—	24	104	32	8	1	191
Total	169	156	8	76	186	112	8	6	721

## NUMBER & TYPES OF POST-WAR HOUSES ERECTED IN EACH PARISH

Parish	Population	Traditional	Non-Traditional	Ratio to population
Bishopstone ... ..	630	4	2	1 to 105
Blunsdon St. Andrew ...	1115	6	8	1 to 80
Chisledon ... ..	2150	36	24	1 to 36
Castle Eaton ... ..	235	—	4	1 to 59
Hannington ... ..	245	—	12	1 to 20
Highworth ... ..	3510	24	114	1 to 25
Haydon Wick ... ..	1220	16	18	1 to 36
Inglesham ... ..	150	6	—	1 to 25
Liddington ... ..	360	4	—	1 to 90
Stanton Fitzwarren ...	170	—	12	1 to 14
Stratton St. Margaret ...	7590	43	148	1 to 40
South Marston ... ..	505	8	40	1 to 10
Wanborough ... ..	1210	6	28	1 to 36
Wroughton ... ..	3150	30	128	1 to 20
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>21460</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>1 to 30</b>

## TOTAL HOUSES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pre-war houses	...	...	...	...	509
War-time houses, bungalows, etc.	...	...	...	...	421
Post-war houses	...	...	...	...	721
					<hr/>
					1651
					<hr/>

## TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION USED BY APPLICANT

Year	Huts	Rooms	Houses	Caravans	Flats	Total
December 31st, 1953	7	152	171	5	3	338
<i>Percentage of total</i>	2.0%	44.9%	50.6%	1.5%	1%	
December 31st, 1952	12	235	227	10	12	496
<i>Percentage of total</i>	2.4%	47.4%	45.7%	2.0%	2.4%	
December 31st, 1951	36	191	226	8	14	475
<i>Percentage of total</i>	7.6%	40.3%	47.6%	1.7%	2.8%	

## FAMILY DETAILS

				No. applicants		Percent. of applicants	
				1952	1953	1952	1953
Single persons	...	...	...	8	12	1.6%	3.8%
Married couples		...	...	160	108	32.3%	32.0%
"	"	with 1 child	...	146	100	29.4%	29.3%
"	"	" 2 children		122	70	24.6%	20.6%
"	"	" 3 children		40	26	8.0%	7.3%
"	"	" 4 or more		20	22	4.1%	7.0%

# STATISTICAL HOUSING DETAILS FOR ALL PARISHES, 31.12.53.

Total No. of houses etc., owned by H.R.D.C. ...		1651	No. of pre- war houses	509	No. of Wartime houses temporary bungalows, site houses, etc. ...		421	No. of post- war houses	721	Total	
Total house built 1953		H.R.D.C.		Private Enterprise		No. built 1952 ...		H.R.D.C.		Private Enterprise	
		191		31				127		23	
Total applications renewed 31/12/53	338	Accommodation now used by applicants ...		Rooms Houses	152 143	Caravans Huts	5 7	No. living in H.R.D.C. property	31	No. outside District	
				Flats	3	Tem. bungalows	28				
Population of District	21460	Family units in- volved in appli- cations		1067	% of population, 1953...		4.96%	No. Old Age bun- galow applications		39	
					% of population, 1952...		7.4%				
No. of Ex-service applicants ...				231	No. of applications on medical grounds ...		...	...	19		
SIZE OF FAMILY. DETAILS.											
Number of Applicants	Single	Man & Wife		&1C	&2C	&3C	&4C	&5C	&6C		
	12	108	100	70	26	14	7	1			
AGE GROUPS.											
Age of App. Number of Applicants	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	
	38	78	74	44	38	21	21	13	4	7	
YEARS OF APPLICATION.											
Number of Applicants	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	1	2	3	6	2	6	18	29	36	104	131



